

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-01

The Superior Court will continue to work to safeguard court users and court personnel as we manage calendars, hearings, trials and other matters in courtrooms throughout the State. Matters scheduled via remote WebEx technology will continue in an effort to minimize the number of persons gathered in courtrooms. These remote hearings and conferences will continue to be supported by personnel who are specifically trained for this purpose. All remote matters shall be scheduled in accordance with the Criminal and Civil Matters Protocol for Requesting a Remote Hearing/Conference (During Covid-19 Emergency Measures). Public access to remote court hearings is available through streaming links that can be found on the court website under the “Public Access to Court Hearings” section. The court is also working to ensure public access to live court hearings through limited in-person viewing, audio streaming links, and/or telephonic conference lines that can be found on the Judiciary website under **Public Access to Court Hearings**.

The following provisions shall remain in effect through September 4, 2021 unless or until superseded by subsequent administrative order:

IN-PERSON HEARINGS

Calendars will be staggered to ensure compliance within capacity limits established for courthouses and individual courtrooms to allow for appropriate distancing. Judicial Officers, in addition to security personnel, shall ensure that courtroom capacity levels are adhered to and that all are in compliance with social distancing and face mask protocols.

Video conferencing with defendants at the Adult Correctional Institution will continue to remain a priority and will be utilized where technology is currently available on the Providence County and Kent County Daily Criminal Calendars; the Providence County PAC Calendar; the Newport County and Washington County Criminal Calendars, and on the Fines, Costs & Restitution and Miscellaneous Criminal Calendars in Providence County where the technology is currently scheduled for implementation.

Adult Drug Court and Diversion calendars will continue to be staggered.

To maintain proper distancing and to adhere to gathering restrictions, specific courtrooms in Providence County will be used for the duration of this Order and are noted under the Assignment-- Fourth Period section of this Order (see Page 3).

GRAND JURY

Grand Jury proceedings will continue to operate in established locations that provide for appropriate distancing and safety measures for both jurors and personnel.

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS

The Court has undertaken measures to allow jury trials to continue on a limited basis in Providence County while there remain Covid-19 limitations. No jury trial will be scheduled without the authorization of the Presiding Justice where a constitutional, statutory or otherwise highly critical need has been demonstrated.

For more information on the logistics of holding jury trials through the Fourth Period, please refer to the *Jury Trial Protocols Under Covid-19 Guidelines* which can be found on the Judiciary's website under the "Coronavirus (Covid-19) Information and Update" tab and under the Jury Service tab.

BENCH TRIALS – CRIMINAL AND CIVIL

In-court bench trials shall continue with advance notice to the Presiding Justice with the assurance that all necessary safety measures are in place. The selected courtroom shall allow for social distancing based upon the number of participants. The bench, witness area, clerk and stenographic work space shall be outfitted with plexiglass and all properly distanced from counsel table. Plexiglass separators shall be provided to attorneys and/or litigants seeking additional separation at counsel table as needed or upon request.

COVID -19 RELATED CALENDAR PROTOCOLS/ORDERS

All calendar protocols/orders issued in response to the Covid-19 pandemic as well as any modifications or amendments thereto shall remain in full force and effect unless superseded by a subsequent protocol/order. These protocols/orders can be found on the Judiciary's website under the "Coronavirus (Covid-19) Information and Update" tab.

ACCESS TO CLERKS' OFFICES

Clerks' offices shall continue to conduct court business in all emergency and non-emergency matters including, but not limited to, accepting the filing of pleadings and other documents, scheduling hearings, and issuing orders. For the duration of this Order, pro se litigants may continue to submit filings via email to the clerk's office. Email information for each county is available on the Judiciary website under **Continuity of Court Business Operations, Superior Court, Filings Procedure.**

Except for emergency matters all in-person filings or business with Clerks' Offices must be made by appointment only. Instructions on scheduling an appointment and telephone contact information for each county Clerk's Office is available on the Judiciary website under **Continuity of Court Business Operations, Superior Court, In-Person Filings (by appointment only).**

RESTITUTION AND/OR COURT COSTS & FINES – PAYMENTS

Individuals are encouraged to make restitution and/or court costs & fines payments on-line via the Rhode Island Judiciary Public Portal or by U.S. Mail. Otherwise, a scheduled appointment will be required for those who wish to make an in-person payment. Instructions for making payments and contact information for the Office of Central Registry and the Costs & Fines Office may be found on the Rhode Island Judiciary website under **Continuity of Court Business Operations, Superior Court, Payments Procedure**.

RE: ASSIGNMENTS – FOURTH PERIOD

June 28, 2021 through September 4, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE CARNES:

- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar in Newport County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar and the Civil Calendar in Newport County the week of August 1, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE CRUISE:

- To be in charge of the Fines, Costs & Restitution Calendar and the Miscellaneous Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 14 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Fines, Costs & Restitution Calendar and the Miscellaneous Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 14 in Providence County and to be in charge of the Pre-arraignment Calendar in Courtroom 5G of the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex the week of July 18, 2021.

MS. JUSTICE DARIGAN:

- To be in charge of the Formal & Special Cause Calendar and Temporary Restraining Orders in Courtroom No. 16 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Formal & Special Cause Calendar and Temporary Restraining Orders in Courtroom No. 16 in Providence County and to be in charge of the Civil Motion Calendar in Courtroom No. 2 in Providence County on July 6, July 12 and July 13, 2021.

MS. PRESIDING JUSTICE GIBNEY:

- To manage the Asbestos Calendar in Courtroom No. 12 in Providence County and to assist on all calendars as administrative duties permit.

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MS. JUSTICE KEOUGH:

- To be in charge of the Trial and Pre-Trial Calendars in Courtroom No. 4 in Providence County, the Diversion Calendar and elsewhere as needed.

MR. JUSTICE KRAUSE:

- To be in charge of the Gun Calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

MR. JUSTICE LANPHEAR:

- To be in charge of the Civil Calendar in Courtroom 4A in Kent County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

MR. JUSTICE LICHT:

- To be in charge of the Out-County Business Calendar, the Kugel Mesh and Opioid Calendars in Courtroom 4D in Kent County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Civil Motion Calendar in Courtroom No. 2 in Providence County the week of August 15, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE MATOS:

- To assist on the Trial Calendar in Courtroom No. 3 in Providence County, to assist with the Trial and Pre-Trial Calendars in Courtroom No. 4 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Civil Motion Calendar in Courtroom No. 2 in Providence County the week of July 18, 2021.
- To be in charge of the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 9 the week of July 25, 2021 and on August 20, 2021.
- To be in charge of the Trial and Pre-trial Calendars in Courtroom No. 4 in Providence County the week of August 1, 2021.
- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar and the Civil Calendar in Newport County the week of August 8, 2021.

MS. JUSTICE MCGUILL:

- To assist on the Trial Calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Trial and Pre-trial Calendars in Courtroom No. 4 in Providence County the weeks of July 18 and July 25, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE MONTALBANO:

- To be in charge of the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 9 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

MR. JUSTICE NUGENT:

- To assist on the Trial Calendar in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Trial and Pre-trial Calendars in Courtroom No. 4 in Providence County on August 27 and on September 3, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE PROCACCINI:

- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar in Courtroom 4E in Kent County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

MR. JUSTICE RASPALLO:

- To be in charge of the Civil Motion Calendar in Courtroom No. 2 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

MS. JUSTICE REKAS SLOAN:

- To assist with the Formal and Special Cause Calendar and Temporary Restraining Orders in Courtroom No. 15, the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 9 and elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Formal and Special Cause Calendar and the Temporary Restraining Orders in Courtroom No. 15 in Providence County the weeks of June 27, July 18, and July 25, 2021.
- To be in charge of the Civil Motion Calendar in Courtroom No. 2 in Providence County on July 27, 2021 and on August 24, 2021.
- To be in charge of the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 9 in Providence County the week of August 1, 2021 and on August 27, 2021.

MS. JUSTICE RODGERS:

- To assist on the Trial Calendar and on the Gun Calendar in Courtroom No. 6 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom No. 9 in Providence County the week of August 29, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE STERN:

- To be in charge of the Business Calendar in Courtroom No. 5 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Trial and Pre-trial Calendars in Courtroom No. 4 in Providence County on August 13 and on August 20, 2021.
- To be in charge of the Civil Calendar in Courtroom 4A in Kent County the weeks of August 22, 2021 and August 29, 2021.

MS. JUSTICE TAFT-CARTER:

- To be in charge of the Civil Calendar in Washington County and to assist with the Providence Business Calendar in Washington County and elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar and the Civil Calendar in Newport County the week of July 25, 2021.

MS. JUSTICE THUNBERG:

- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar in Washington County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Criminal Calendar and the Civil Calendar in Washington County on July 6, 2021 and the weeks of July 25, August 8, August 15 and August 22, 2021.

MR. JUSTICE VAN COUYGHEN:

- To be in charge of the Civil Calendar in Newport County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Civil Calendar and the Criminal Calendar in Newport County the week of July 11, and the weeks of August 15 and August 22, 2021.

MS. JUSTICE VOGEL:

- To assist on the Trial Calendar and to manage the Med/Mal Pre-Trial Calendar in Providence County, and to assist elsewhere as needed.

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MR. SPECIAL MAGISTRATE BURKE:

- To be in charge of the Pre-Arrest Calendar in Courtroom No. 5-G in the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex, the Diversion Calendar in Courtroom No. 1 in Providence County and to assist elsewhere as needed.

MR. MAGISTRATE FLYNN:

- To be in charge of the Adult Drug Court Calendar, the Sexual Predator Calendar, and the Probation Termination Calendar in Courtroom 4C in Kent County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom 4F in Kent County the weeks of June 27, July 4, and August 1, 2021 and on September 3, 2021.

MR. MAGISTRATE MCBURNEY:

- To be in charge of the Daily Criminal Calendar in Courtroom 4F in Kent County and to assist elsewhere as needed.
- To be in charge of the Pre-arrest Calendar in Courtroom 5G in the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex in Providence County the week of July 4, 2021.

The Adult Drug Court, Sexual Predator, and Early Termination of Probation Calendars scheduled for the period June 28, 2021 through September 4, 2021 shall be issued by the Magistrate of the Adult Drug Court.

BY ORDER OF:

_____/s/_____
ALICE BRIDGET GIBNEY
PRESIDING JUSTICE

DATED: April 27, 2021